

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02463 241236Z
ACTION HA-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9157
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2463

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN LOCAL VOLAG PROCEDURES

REF: HONG KONG 1707 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE HONG KONG/MACAU DOES NOT HAVE JOINT VOLAG REP, PROCESSING OF INDOCHINA BOAT CASE REFUGEES IS HANDLED DIFFERENTLY THAN AT OTHER S E ASIAN POSTS. ICEM, ON BEHALF OF UNHCR, COMPLETES BIO FORMS AND THEN ASSIGNS CASES TO FOUR VOLAGS IN HONGKONG FOR SPONSORSHIP SEARCH IN U S. AT LEAST ONE AGENCY SUBMITTED DATA ON ITS OWN FORM RATHER THAN UNHCR FORM, AND THREE AGENCIES DID NOT SUBMIT FORMS TO ACVA DIRECTLY, BUT TO THEIR U S COUNTERPART AGENCIES.

2. LOCAL VOLAGS INFORMED DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THAT ACVA WANTS STANDARD FORM SUBMITTED AND THAT REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIPS BE SENT DIRECTLY TO ACVA. IF EFFECT, ACVA WANTS UNHCR BIO FORM ALONG WITH SUPPLEMENTAL ACVA FORM FOR EACH CASE. LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE, IN CIRCULAR LETTER, NOTED THAT UNLESS SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO ACVA, IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ACVA MONITOR CASELOAD AND CONTROL OUTSTANDING CASES. LETTER ALSO SUGGESTED CENTRAL
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MONITORING POINT IN HONG KONG TO ASSURE ALL FORMS REACH ACVA SO THAT THERE ARE NO UNDUE DELAYS IN PROCESSING.

3. ON FEB 23 AT MEETING ATTENDED BY DIRECTORS OF ALL HONG KONG VOLAGS, ICEM, INS DIDIR AND CONOFFS, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT FOLLOWING PROCESSING

PROCEDURES WOULD BE IMPLIMENTED IMMEDIATELY:

- A) UNHCR BIO FORM WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED BY ICEM AND ACVA FORM WOULD BE PREPARED BY VOLAGS UNDER CONGEN SUPERVISION;
- B) CONGEN WILL MONITOR COMPLETION ACVA FORM USING VOLAG TYPISTS;
- C) ACVA FORM AND UNHCR BIO FORM WILL BE SENT CERTIFIED MAIL DIRECTLY TO ACVA BY CONGEN USING FPO FACILITY; AND
- D) HONG KONG VOLAG DIRECTORS WILL REQUEST U S COUNTERPART AGENCIES TO SEND COMPLETED ACVA FORM #1 DIRECTLY TO INS HONG KONG VIA FPO MAIL.

4. REVISION WILL UNIFY SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURES HONG KONG/MACAU AND WILL CONSERVE TIME.

5. REQUEST DEPT INFORM ACVA OF REVISED PROCEDURE AND THAT ACVA INFORM ALL U S VOLAGS PARTICIPATING IN INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROGRAMS TO SEND ACVA FORM #1 DIRECTLY TO INS AT FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

U S IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
C/O AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

BOX 30
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 96659

CONGEN/INS WILL INFORM APPROPRIATE LOCAL VOLAG OF RECEIPT SPONSORSHIP AND FURNISH COPY OF ASSURANCE TO INTERESTED AGENCY.

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